

News

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FOR RELEASE:

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HIGHLIGHTS OF DENVER-BOULDER-GREELEY, CO NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY, JUNE 2005

Workers in the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colorado, metropolitan area averaged \$22.75 per hour during June 2005, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman reported that white-collar workers averaged \$27.44 per hour and accounted for 61 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$16.06 per hour and represented 25 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 14 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$13.12 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 414 firms representing 559,700 workers in the Denver-Boulder-Greeley metropolitan area, which is comprised of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, and Weld Counties in Colorado. Eighty percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Denver-Boulder-Greeley metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 70 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, civil engineers averaged \$42.08 per hour; respiratory therapists, \$23.31; secretaries, \$17.85; and cashiers, \$10.51. Blue-collar occupations included bus drivers earning \$15.89 per hour, butchers and meat cutters at \$13.22, and stock handlers and baggers at \$10.55. In the service occupations, public service police and detectives averaged \$28.12 per hour; cooks, \$13.20; and early childhood teachers' assistants, \$10.40.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Denver-Boulder-Greeley area averaged \$23.61 per hour and part-timers earned \$12.97. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$18.98 per hour, while their non-union counterparts made \$14.83. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$18.91 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$24.38.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that integrates three previously separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential

careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received, and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO National Compensation Survey June 2005 (Bulletin number 3130-50). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Kansas City Information Office by calling 816-426-2481. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>. Copies of this release can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Kansas City by dialing 816-426-3152 and requesting document 9654.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Kansas City Economic Analysis & Information Office at 816-426-2481 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO, June 2005

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$22.75	2.7	\$21.86	3.5	\$26.95	1.9
All excluding sales	22.71	2.3	21.73	3.0	26.98	1.9
White collar	27.44	2.8	26.81	3.5	29.99	2.3
White collar excluding sales	27.96	2.4	27.37	3.1	30.05	2.3
Professional specialty and technical	32.69	2.2	31.96	2.5	34.90	3.5
Professional specialty	34.31	1.8	33.47	2.2	36.59	3.4
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	37.36	5.7	37.42	5.7	—	—
Aerospace engineers	37.83	9.4	37.83	9.4	—	—
Civil engineers	42.08	2.6	42.48	1.9	—	—
Electrical and electronic engineers	36.43	3.7	36.43	3.7	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	37.49	3.2	37.75	3.4	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	37.69	3.1	37.97	3.4	—	—
Natural scientists	34.14	16.4	—	—	—	—
Health related	28.69	13.9	28.91	14.9	26.09	14.8
Registered nurses	31.13	6.1	32.12	5.6	20.05	7.9
Respiratory therapists	23.31	1.4	23.31	1.4	—	—
Teachers, college and university	49.96	6.9	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	30.16	3.5	21.14	21.1	31.88	.5
Elementary school teachers	31.86	1.4	27.65	7.9	32.14	1.2
Secondary school teachers	32.28	1.8	—	—	32.33	1.8
Teachers, n.e.c.	25.35	29.4	—	—	—	—
Vocational and educational counselors	22.96	18.1	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	29.77	14.6	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	20.79	5.7	18.97	8.2	23.99	11.3
Social workers	21.10	9.2	—	—	24.76	16.9
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	29.92	10.9	28.24	10.8	—	—
Designers	22.83	23.7	22.83	23.7	—	—
Editors and reporters	30.15	10.7	30.15	10.7	—	—
Technical	25.28	8.3	25.90	10.2	22.06	10.8
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	25.82	14.5	27.17	14.6	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	19.13	3.7	—	—	—	—
Electrical and electronic technicians	25.06	3.6	24.87	3.4	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	26.70	2.7	—	—	—	—
Drafters	21.67	9.5	21.67	9.5	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	36.18	6.2	36.92	7.5	33.50	3.7
Executives, administrators, and managers	45.28	8.9	46.17	11.1	42.22	2.8
Administrators and officials, public administration	37.50	2.4	—	—	37.50	2.4
Financial managers	58.33	18.7	58.35	19.7	—	—
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	58.90	21.0	58.90	21.0	—	—
Administrators, education and related fields	45.46	8.3	—	—	46.87	8.5
Managers, medicine and health	35.29	6.9	—	—	—	—
Managers, service organizations, n.e.c.	34.60	16.2	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	42.73	9.7	42.87	9.8	—	—
Management related	26.04	6.8	26.89	8.3	22.70	4.8
Accountants and auditors	24.10	4.0	24.18	4.2	—	—
Other financial officers	33.41	21.7	34.96	25.4	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	25.73	8.8	26.07	11.3	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	23.12	11.6	23.46	14.6	—	—
Sales	23.28	20.4	23.33	20.5	—	—
Sales, other business services	16.60	7.9	16.60	7.9	—	—
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale	33.17	10.6	33.17	10.6	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities	12.33	14.6	12.33	14.6	—	—
Cashiers	10.51	5.9	10.52	5.9	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	16.10	3.1	15.98	3.7	16.67	2.7
Supervisors, financial records processing	20.66	8.0	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO, June 2005 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
White collar —Continued						
Administrative support, including clerical —Continued						
Computer operators	\$19.86	3.1	—	—	—	—
Secretaries	17.85	4.5	\$18.27	5.1	\$15.80	5.6
Receptionists	12.10	5.3	12.20	5.4	—	—
Information clerks, n.e.c.	12.75	7.7	12.75	7.7	—	—
Library clerks	14.55	9.3	—	—	14.55	9.3
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	15.05	4.6	14.55	7.0	16.10	3.3
Stock and inventory clerks	16.58	3.9	16.02	3.5	—	—
Material recording, scheduling, and distribution clerks, n.e.c.	15.24	49.0	15.24	49.0	—	—
Insurance adjusters, examiners, and investigators	16.71	3.0	16.71	3.0	—	—
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	18.09	7.4	17.92	7.5	—	—
General office clerks	13.93	3.4	13.55	4.9	14.93	2.1
Teachers' aides	10.72	3.2	—	—	10.72	3.2
Administrative support, n.e.c.	17.38	5.6	17.24	5.7	—	—
Blue collar	16.06	2.7	15.79	3.0	19.34	4.7
Precision production, craft, and repair						
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	20.98	8.4	21.33	11.2	—	—
Butchers and meat cutters	13.22	9.4	13.22	9.4	—	—
Inspectors, testers, and graders	21.03	16.9	21.03	16.9	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	13.81	5.4	13.81	5.4	—	—
Assemblers	13.38	12.5	13.38	12.5	—	—
Assemblers	11.82	8.3	11.82	8.3	—	—
Transportation and material moving						
Truck drivers	16.50	5.2	16.29	6.1	17.84	3.6
Truck drivers	15.48	6.3	15.48	6.3	—	—
Bus drivers	15.89	.6	—	—	15.91	.6
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers						
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	12.63	6.9	12.43	7.3	16.74	2.3
Construction laborers	13.72	11.1	—	—	17.63	5.6
Construction laborers	11.21	10.8	—	—	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	10.55	3.0	10.55	3.0	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	15.51	12.5	15.53	12.7	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	9.45	10.7	9.45	10.7	—	—
Service						
Protective service	13.12	8.5	10.60	8.8	19.99	8.7
Police and detectives, public service	24.80	6.6	—	—	25.36	6.0
Police and detectives, public service	28.12	2.5	—	—	28.12	2.5
Food service	9.80	13.5	9.37	14.0	15.61	35.2
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	4.38	25.7	4.38	25.7	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	2.81	9.6	2.81	9.6	—	—
Waiters'/Waitresses' assistants	9.59	.0	9.59	.0	—	—
Other food service	11.90	9.3	11.51	9.1	15.61	35.2
Cooks	13.20	6.8	13.20	6.8	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation	10.83	2.4	—	—	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	9.47	7.8	9.36	10.9	9.78	4.4
Health service	14.00	4.5	13.60	6.4	—	—
Health aides, except nursing	14.36	6.8	14.15	7.5	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	13.70	6.2	13.55	7.3	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO, June 2005 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Service —Continued						
Cleaning and building service	\$11.14	4.2	\$10.24	4.3	\$13.20	5.4
Maids and housemen	9.05	.6	9.05	.6	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	11.61	3.9	11.09	6.2	12.42	2.8
Personal service	12.56	9.0	12.74	11.8	11.87	5.6
Early childhood teachers' assistants	10.40	6.2	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. **Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO, June 2005**

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$23.61	\$12.97	\$21.96	\$22.90	\$22.08	\$40.50
All excluding sales	23.43	13.55	22.41	22.76	22.35	44.56
White collar	28.25	16.61	26.34	27.59	26.56	43.76
White-collar excluding sales	28.43	19.62	28.28	27.92	27.41	56.00
Professional specialty and technical	33.04	26.02	31.60	32.88	32.69	—
Professional specialty	34.78	26.40	30.35	35.06	34.31	—
Technical	25.37	21.59	39.96	23.49	25.28	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	36.24	—	—	36.20	33.13	66.70
Sales	26.54	10.07	—	24.74	16.94	37.59
Administrative support, including clerical	16.42	12.54	17.86	15.94	15.87	—
Blue collar	16.26	11.45	18.98	14.83	16.02	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.78	—	20.87	19.28	19.96	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.93	—	15.28	13.33	13.81	—
Transportation and material moving	16.53	14.20	22.98	13.89	16.26	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.84	11.44	15.12	11.32	12.63	—
Service	14.70	7.88	16.36	12.67	13.12	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.9	3.9	3.4	3.0	2.2	17.1
All excluding sales	2.5	4.5	3.4	2.4	2.0	25.4
White collar	3.0	6.8	4.1	3.1	2.2	15.6
White-collar excluding sales	2.5	8.2	4.3	2.7	2.0	22.3
Professional specialty and technical	2.3	3.0	3.8	2.5	2.2	—
Professional specialty	1.8	3.2	1.9	2.0	1.8	—
Technical	8.4	3.8	30.2	7.6	8.3	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	6.2	—	—	6.3	4.7	17.0
Sales	22.5	5.5	—	22.4	22.8	26.7
Administrative support, including clerical	3.6	8.6	3.5	3.5	2.2	—
Blue collar	2.9	10.1	5.6	2.3	3.1	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	6.9	—	7.5	8.7	6.6	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.7	—	4.8	7.0	5.4	—
Transportation and material moving	5.3	4.5	7.9	6.8	6.8	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.2	13.0	9.3	5.5	6.9	—
Service	8.8	5.0	11.8	8.5	8.6	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO, June 2005**

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$21.86	\$18.91	\$22.95	\$21.68	\$24.38
All excluding sales	21.73	17.40	23.13	21.85	24.49
White collar	26.81	25.32	27.23	26.16	28.34
White-collar excluding sales	27.37	24.64	27.91	27.12	28.65
Professional specialty and technical	31.96	25.96	33.15	33.29	33.05
Professional specialty	33.47	25.93	34.98	34.44	35.43
Technical	25.90	26.09	25.87	25.56	25.98
Executive, administrative, and managerial	36.92	42.55	35.87	35.64	36.20
Sales	23.33	26.66	19.51	19.62	19.03
Administrative support, including clerical	15.98	15.21	16.14	15.42	16.99
Blue collar	15.79	14.71	16.34	15.65	17.09
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.52	22.34	18.78	18.18	20.09
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.81	14.21	13.69	13.67	13.70
Transportation and material moving	16.29	13.90	18.32	15.29	20.96
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.43	11.47	13.31	11.55	15.26
Service	10.60	8.19	12.03	11.43	13.35
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	3.5	14.7	4.2	6.1	4.9
All excluding sales	3.0	13.7	4.2	6.0	4.9
White collar	3.5	13.7	4.0	6.5	5.2
White-collar excluding sales	3.1	10.4	4.0	6.6	5.2
Professional specialty and technical	2.5	14.8	4.2	5.3	5.4
Professional specialty	2.2	17.7	4.0	6.2	4.3
Technical	10.2	5.3	12.1	18.1	14.8
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.5	14.4	9.5	18.3	9.2
Sales	20.5	31.7	13.6	16.4	2.5
Administrative support, including clerical	3.7	19.4	2.1	2.8	3.6
Blue collar	3.0	10.4	4.2	5.2	6.5
Precision production, craft, and repair	7.7	23.2	7.9	10.2	8.2
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.4	5.6	6.8	16.3	5.3
Transportation and material moving	6.1	13.4	9.1	15.2	13.0
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.3	10.0	5.3	4.9	12.2
Service	8.8	22.0	7.1	11.7	6.1

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

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